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05/09/2013 Minutes

VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2013 MEETING
Approved June 11, 2013

Present: Andrew Fischer, Joey Glushko, David Haas, Mary Harrison, Elizabeth Karpati, Brucie Moulton.

Absent: Kathleen Bodie, Adam Chapdelaine, Dan Dunn, Bruce Fitzsimmons, Jane Howard, Gordon Jamieson, John Leone, Josh Lobel, Cheryl Miller, Charlotte Milan, Angela Olszewski, Tarajee Pass.

- The **minutes** of the last meeting were accepted with some revisions.
- **Census survey 2013:**
 - The topic of outreach to people who signed up for currently inactive task groups (Community and Citizen Service, Communication) was postponed to the next meeting.
 - The report to Town Meeting went well. Mary will send it to Standing Committee members who are not Town Meeting members. An interim report is on the Town website.
- **Census survey 2014:**
 - Town Meeting allocated \$3400 for it, close to the cost of printing this year's survey.
 - Next year's survey will probably be smaller, with fewer pages and/or questions.
 - Putting the survey on-line only would make processing easier, but would cut into participation – on-line replies this year were only about half as many as last year,
 - Perhaps processing paper replies could be made a student project.
 - To minimize sloppy answers like X's instead of blackened circles, it may help to state emphatically that only answers given in the prescribed format can be tallied by the scanner – do it right or don't bother.
- The “**outreach**” mandated by Town Meeting can be done in various other ways, e.g. via Community Education classes, articles in the Arlington Advocate, or focus group discussions with the results published with a request for further comments. The survey has the advantage of anonymity.
- **Task group reports:**
 - Governance (Mary): The introductory session for new Town Meeting members was attended by 30-40 people. Moderator John Leone gave an excellent presentation. Precincts 12 + 14 had a precinct meeting.
 - Environment (Elizabeth): The Reservoir Committee had its first work day on April 20 to clean up the habitat garden. It plans to add more plants on the shady side, which looks rather sparse. The Spy Pond Committee's annual “Trails Day” at the south end of the pond will be on May 13.
 - Joey reported that the schools have a list of what activities qualify as community service. Helping with Trails Day is included.
 - Andrew distributed copies of a survey of automobile insurance costs vs. claims which he is (doing? planning?) in his precinct (#6). Discussion was postponed to the next meeting.
- **Coming events:**
 - The Vision 2020 year-end celebration will be held June 20 at the Senior Center, with Ryan Katofsky speaking on “Solarizing Arlington.” A complication has arisen in the form of new health regulations which require that “savory foods” be served by a caterer to make sure they are kept at the proper temperature. So traditional “potlucks” can no longer be held, though people can bring food for themselves, and sweets for which temperature is irrelevant can be shared.
 - A tour of the new Thompson School will be held July 23 or 24, in two shifts, 3-4 and 4-5 p.m., each limited to 15-20 people.